

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

Current electronic commerce systems have two salient characteristics. First, they are divided primarily along business and application ownership lines. The system and application boundaries are determined exclusively by the organization that owns the application or service. The second characteristic is that they are built with data control residing in physical control. Data belongs to a particular business and that business determines its location, which is has forced accessing applications to choose between deployment on that same platform or inferior performance. The combination of these two factors has led to a tightly coupled, monolithic, centralized model with a classic two- or three-tiered client/server architecture.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

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Additionally, in current systems, a record that does not exist cannot be changed. Databases enforce constraints of this type through referential integrity. According to referential integrity, there is a relationship between two rows of a database that refer to each other. If the required relationship refers to something that does not exist, the database will not allow the update to occur. According to the present invention, each data record is inserted with without regard to referential integrity.

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